

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone

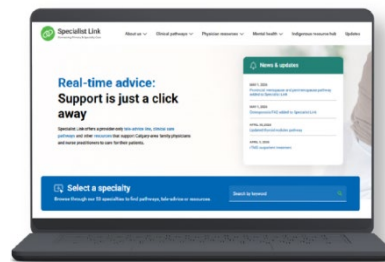


Primary Care Networks
CALGARY AND AREA

Updated Specialist Link website

The [Specialist Link](#) website has been updated to make it quicker and easier to access specialties, tele-advice services and pathways.

The popular Calgary Zone service, launched in 2014, has a powerful new search tool that allows family physicians, nurse practitioners and other providers to look for services by specialties, which are now listed from A to Z on the homepage. Check out our [one-page guide](#) on how to get the most out of the website.



By the numbers: Specialist Link facilitated more than 19,000 calls between doctors and nurse practitioners and specialty last year, according to the latest annual report. Endocrinology was the most popular tele-advice service, while non-alcoholic fatty liver disease was once again the top pathway. [Read the report.](#)

Osteoporosis FAQ: An FAQ has been developed to support the assessment and management of osteoporosis in adult patients within primary care. Co-developed by specialty and primary care, it is intended for complex or non-urgent cases and can be used in conjunction with [Specialist Link](#) tele-advice services such as endocrinology. [Download the FAQ.](#)

Obstetrical services in the community

A list of community-based obstetrical providers in the Calgary area is now available to support family physicians, nurse practitioners and clinics to refer patients in need of timely and appropriate care.

The list, posted on [Specialist Link](#), is organized by geographical quadrant and the corresponding acute care site, as well as acuity (low risk versus high risk). Listings will be updated at regular intervals. [Review the provider list.](#)

Please note that referrals to urban Labour and Delivery or hospital-based obstetrical services will be declined. Labour and Delivery triage and hospital-based obstetrical units are not outpatient referral services. These settings function exclusively as acute care and inpatient services and do not provide routine, elective, or longitudinal obstetrical care. Referrals for

outpatient obstetrical assessment or management will not be accepted under any circumstances moving forward.

All non-emergent obstetrical care should be directed to an appropriate community-based provider, such as those featured in the provider list. Patients presenting with acute obstetrical symptoms requiring immediate assessment should use the appropriate emergency or urgent care department at the nearest acute care site, rather than go through outpatient referral.

Out-of-country referrals: Obstetrical providers within the Calgary area have adopted a standardized process for triaging and accepting out-of-country (OCC) patients. Referrals should be directed to Alberta Zone Inc. (Medi-Com Consulting Inc.), which coordinates care and collects the standardized deposit required for uninsured services. OCC patients referred to Alberta Zone Inc. will undergo review and assessment through central triage; the fee is standardized across the city. Maternity care offices or providers do not accept direct referrals for out-of-country patients. Call 403-295-1465 for more information or fax 403-275-7966.

Family medicine teaching opportunities

Clinical preceptors are needed to work one or two days per week at two Calgary sites – the South Health Family Medicine Teaching Centre (South Health Campus) and Central Family Medicine Teaching Centre (Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre).

Compensation is provided through the University of Calgary Family Medicine Preceptors Clinical Alternative Relationship Plan (ARP), recognizing both clinical care and teaching time. The opportunity is open to PCN members with College of Family Physicians of Canada (CCFP) certification. [More information](#). You can also email melissa.pryor@primarycarealberta.ca.

Reminder: Indigenous resources

Several events are being held both virtually and in-person in the Calgary area and throughout the province as part of National Indigenous History Month. Check out a [list of local events](#).

Learning tools: Two new learning tools are now available on [Specialist Link](#)'s Indigenous resource hub. [Indigenous Cultural Safety in Practice](#) is a 50-minute video recording that explores what cultural safety means, why it matters and how it shows up in our everyday interactions with patients. [Navigating non-Insured Health Benefits](#) for Indigenous patients is a recording of a short, practical webinar that explains common challenges patients face when accessing coverage. Visit the [Indigenous resource hub](#).

Quick links

ACFP Family Medicine Innovation Forum

Monday, June 15 is the deadline for submissions for the Alberta College of Family Physicians' Family Medicine Innovation Forum, which takes place in October. [More information](#).

AIW day

On Wednesday, June 17, a virtual AHS Improvement Way (AIW) event will take place. It is open to all health professionals. [More information](#).

Caregiver-centred care

On Monday, July 6 from 6–7:30 p.m., caregiver-centred care will be the focus of the latest Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) support session offered via the Alberta Medical Association. [More information](#).

Federation of Medical Women of Canada

On Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19, the Federation of Medical Women of Canada will hold its AGM and educational conference in Edmonton. [More information](#).

Our Kids Health learning hub

An online learning hub, available in multiple languages, is now available to support families to make evidence-based decisions about their health. [More information](#).

Parachute resources

Parachute Leaders in Injury Prevention has developed web resources for parents of pre-teens and teens about over-the-counter medication safety to prevent unintentional harms. [More information](#).

Alberta Lighthouse Initiative

The Alberta Lighthouse Initiative is seeking expressions of interest from health service delivery partners for funding of up to \$500,000 to co-develop and implement practical, evidence-informed care models for cardiometabolic conditions such as Type 2 diabetes. [More information](#).